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PROGRESS REPORT
EUROPEAN PINE SHOOT MOTH SURVEYS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON
1963

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by

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The European pine shoot moth (Rhyacionia buoliana Schiff.) was first detected in the western United States at Bellevue, Washington in 1959. In 1960, a cooperative survey by interested parties showed widespread infestation in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Spot infestations were found at Spokane and Shelton, Washington and at Portland and Salem, Oregon. Before the moth flight in June of 1961, eradication programs were undertaken at Spokane, Portland, and Salem.

A quarantine has been placed on the movement of pine trees from the infested counties in the Puget Sound area. This area has been designated as a containment zone and consists of that section of Washington north of Olympia and west of the Cascade Divide. Each year shoot moth detection surveys are made outside this zone in hopes of preventing the spread of the moth to the high-value native pine stands in eastern Oregon and Washington. These surveys located infested pines at Chehalis, Menlo Park, and Suquamish in Washington in 1961 and at Aberdeen, Washington and Portland, Oregon in 1962. All of these infested pines have been removed and destroyed. At present, all known infested trees are located within the containment zone.

In 1963, surveys will be made in all areas where eradication of the moth has been attempted. In addition, surveys will be made in towns adjacent to the containment zone and towns close to eradicated areas. The area within the containment zone will be surveyed to study the rate of spread of the moth.

A survey method training session was held on April 1-2 for 23 survey personnel of the Oregon State Department of Forestry, 3 State of Oregon nursery inspectors, and 3 survey men of the U. S. Agricultural Research Service. On the second day of the session, a field trip was made to the

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Seward Park area in Seattle to observe actual moth damage and to run a training survey in a known infested area. Results of this survey showed that only 11 of the approximately 400 pines examined in the area were not infested.

Between April 3 and May 6, crews of the Oregon State Department of Forestry spent 434 man-days examining 55,123 pines in the Portland metropolitan area. As of May 7, no infested pines were located. Estimates are that this survey will be completed before the moth flight in early June.

On April 16, a training session was held at Seattle for five insect rangers of the Canadian Department of Forestry. Instructions were given on recognization of the moth damage and on survey methods used. These rangers are scheduled to make a moth survey of the Okanogan Valley and to make a spot check survey in Victoria and Vancouver. The shoot moth has been present in the Vancouver-Victoria area for some years and one infested tree was reported at Kelowna in interior British Columbia in 1961.

At Seattle, on April 24, crew leaders of survey teams for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources received training in detecting moth damage. On April 29, a training school was held in Spokane for all personnel involved in the survey of Spokane Valley. During this survey, areas where the moth was eradicated in 1961 will be surveyed 100 percent while adjacent areas will be covered by a front yard survey. This survey commenced on April 30 and by May 7, 143 man-days had been spent in examining 10,198 pines. No infested pines have been found and most of the area where infested pines were found in 1961 has been surveyed. This survey will be completed by May 31.

Nursery inspectors for the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Division of Plant Industry of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture are assisting in these surveys by examining all pine stock in nurseries in Spokane and Portland.

Survey crews of the U. S. Forest Service will start a statewide moth survey of Oregon and Washington on June 10. Four two-man crews will make detailed surveys in 35 towns in Washington and 25 towns in Oregon. Spot checks will be made of eight additional towns in Washington if time is available. A spread and intensification survey of the moth will be made within the containment zone and within an infested lodgepole pine stand at Shelton, Washington.

For the past three years, personnel of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Department of Forestry, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the U. S. Agricultural Research Service have all been cooperating with the U. S. Forest Service in an all-out-effort to prevent the spread of the moth from its containment zone. The fine cooperation of these agencies has resulted in the success of the surveys.